

STEERING, LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

March 2, 2009

5:30 p.m.

Courthouse

MINUTES:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Jack Black
Commissioner Adam Coggin
Commissioner Gary Farley
Commissioner Jeff Jordan
Commissioner Jeff Phillips
Commissioner Steve Sandlin
Commissioner John Rodgers, C

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ernest Burgess Ted Batey
Sonya Stephenson Becky Shelton

Chairman Rodgers presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with five members being present at that time.

MINUTES:

"Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Black, to approve the minutes of the last meeting as mailed. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT PROCESSING PROPERTY TAX FREEZE ELIGIBILITY:

Trustee Teb Batey addressed the Committee presenting a proposed Interlocal Agreement for processing property tax freeze eligibility applications for the Town of Smyrna. Mr. Batey advised the Trustee's Office will be the agent for the Town of Smyrna in qualifying citizens for tax freeze relief to avoid citizens having to go through the process multiple times. The Committee was advised the agreement has been approved by the Town of Smyrna Council. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Farley, to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Smyrna for the Trustee's Office to process property tax freeze eligibility applications. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

Mr. Batey advised he has met with the Trustee's Association and Comptroller of the Treasury and there is a bill in the Legislature as to income for married couples filing joint for the tax freeze program.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Sonya Stephenson first presented her fourth quarter report for the use and information of the Committee with her business plans for 2008 and 2009 reflecting what has been completed in 2008 and what is planned for 2009. Ms. Stephenson also provided proposed updates to the employee handbook regarding FMLA, annual leave and sick leave for review by the Committee advising the revisions are under review by the County Attorney's Office. Ms. Stephenson will be bringing updates for three other sections of the employee handbook in the upcoming months. Following discussion,

"Commissioner J. Jordan moved, seconded by Commissioner Farley, to approve the fourth quarter report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

"Commissioner Sandlin moved, seconded by Commissioner Black, to approve the 2009 Business Plan as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

Ms. Stephenson next presented her 09/10 proposed budget advising there is a 13% decrease from the prior year in non-salary

items. Mayor Burgess advised he has reviewed the proposed budget and is in agreement with the same although he is not making any final recommendation on salaries until the second or third review of the total budget package. Mayor Burgess advised he has made it clear to department heads there may be subsequent action that has to be taken on budget requests upon further review. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Black, to approve the Human Resources 09/10 budget as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

EQUIPMENT IN WHEEL TAX OFFICER'S CAR:

Mayor Burgess advised the equipment that could not be used was when the Wheel Tax Officer was located at the Armory. Now Mr. Smith can call the Clerk's Office or Sheriff's Department to have tags run. Mr. Smith does not currently have equipment in his car to run tags. Commissioner Farley advised the Sheriff's deputies have to call in to dispatch to run a tag as they do not have equipment in their car either. The City of Murfreesboro does have the capability to check tags from their cars.

UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS:

Mayor Burgess advised both bills have been filed with the Legislature but there is opposition to changing "may" to "shall". Further, he has heard there is suggested language changes but he has not seen any yet. Commissioner Phillips advised Cheatham County also introduced a bill requiring the County Clerk to require proof of residency so this issue is not limited to Rutherford County.

Commissioner Phillips reiterated what was said at the Health & Education meeting on the School Board representatives using vehicle registration as part of the enrollment process and that the Commission was not looking for enforcement but only assistance.

There appearing to be no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Rodgers declared the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

JOHN RODGERS, Chairman